



HOW TO START A VOCATIONAL 9-1-1 PROGRAM

9-1-1 Centers Are Looking For Trained Candidates

Need Training?
Why Not....
College

SEND FOR MORE..

Where Are Our Programs?

5 Steps To Beginning Yours

Full College/Academy Course for sale

What About Certification?

Is OnLine Training The Answer?

**You Can Get VoTech Training
For Just About Any Work...but**

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE...

With current hiring shortages, budget crunches, training challenges, why isn't our industry looking to the college systems for help? Or what about your local police/fire academy - why NOT?

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE WHO OF COLLEGES?!

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Preparing for a career?

If you want to prepare for any job, where do you go? You search out a job training course at a local Vo-Tech or community college of course.

"I want to be a 9-1-1 Operator!"

If you want welding or accounting, or to be a police officer, firefighter, EMT you can find a pre-job course to attend - in fact probably several in your area. But, if you want to work in emergency communications you will most likely NOT find any vocational course in this field. Why is that? Why not 9-1-1 training?

HISTORICAL THINKING

And then, the future

Times have changed, emergency communications has drastically changed, we need to change with it.

VISIONARIES TAKE ACTION

Do you see the need to change the culture? *You can!*

One Answer

Colleges train people to prepare them for the workplace. 911 is a workplace that needs people who are prepared. We love common sense! Is it common sense to use your local college to prepare your citizens for the work of 911?

How Does This work?

It begins with YOU.

You write a letter to every college in your area. The letter focuses on the need for this program for public safety - a new program that will train people for a great career.

Do Your Research

Call the colleges and request the name and title of the person who would be responsible for NEW programs, address them. Colleges love new programs, and search for leaders to help in getting together an advisory board to begin.

It's Up To US

There is no THEY to make progress in this field.

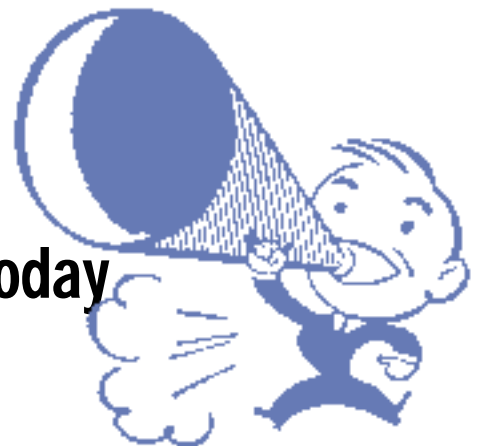
The Time Has Come

Every current college program began as a result of ONE person's leadership. You can be the one to make a change for your area. Take the first step now to acknowledge your profession as a viable career.

Leaders Wanted

One person can make a difference

Contact Your Local College/Academy Today





Vocational Training Pre-Employment - A Coming Reality

I can't take all the credit for the idea because I was simply WHINING!

"Our new hires have too much to learn, they don't send us any people

with any valid experience. Too many people don't pass probation!"

My dinner host, who was not in public safety, said, "Why don't you get them from the college?" What did he mean?

Well, that was such an uneducated reply. You really couldn't blame him - he had no idea that there was no such animal. I tried to be kind, "We don't have any programs to get people ready for 9-1-1."

"Why not" he asked innocently.

"Because - because - we don't. We don't have standards, we all do it different" I explained patiently. He replied, "Bull!"

My Brain ON OT

The next week I couldn't forget that one harsh word. Could he be right? Of course he was, if there was a way to do something, there was a right way. And there was no reason we didn't have training for pre-employment. But why wasn't there any for our profession? I found courses for motorcycle repair, office management, janitor, childcare, police, corrections, firefighter, office technician - but no communications. So, I asked. The answer was, they never thought of it. But they were always interested in new programs! In fact I learned colleges are often in competition and love new programs. So (encouraged) I began to reach out

by sending letters to the colleges. At the time I didn't know the difference - community college or vo-tech?

Well there wasn't any because the CCs also offered vocational education but the Vo-Techs were more likely to be HANDS ON and that is what I felt was needed for this career.

I followed up my letters with a phone call until I finally got a college that was very interested, they were excited. I met with them and the rest is history. It took a year to pull together the Advisory Board, curriculum, lab and I was hired as the instructor. Although I have to admit, I had to work very hard to get the job.

Resistance?

Yes, there was some resistance to the new program with a new idea. Who from you might ask? With such a needed and wonderful idea, who would not like it. The first objection was from a local Director, his comment was - "I don't want to have to hire these people!" He didn't have to hire anyone and I'm not sure why he thought he did. Next, there was some fear we were releasing state secrets and once we trained them, we'd have to kill them. Well that didn't happen. Can't remember the other objections but generally it was the normal discomfort with a new concept.

Nevertheless

The program began over 25 years ago. Yesterday a former student sent me a note - she hadn't seen me in 10 years but just wanted me to know she was now a Supervisor, had married a police officer (go figure) and was doing well.

What About The Losers

My first class had ten students. Dennis was this big guy and he couldn't type. I recall him sitting at the typewriter day after day, with beads of sweat on his forehead. He was being retrained after an injury. He had a family to support and was trying so hard to make the grade. I ended up placing him at an alarm company. Five years later I received a card. "Sue, I now am a supervisor here and I have my own office. Just wanted to tell you not to give up on the losers" There are many different types of jobs students can prepare for.

Final Thoughts

Not only does vocational training give students a leg up into a great career, it gives 911 professionals a chance to go places in education they never would had the opportunity to see otherwise. Teaching at a college is not only fun, it's rewarding financially, personally and professionally. It was because of that one word - BULL - that I was challenged to really think about our industry in new and exciting ways. If you want to provide leadership in your industry, please consider contacting your local colleges to offer your services to get an advisory board together - you will learn and grow and there is no end to the personal rewards.

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leadership is an action word